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* 2755 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions for the eviction of the families settled in Government lands in Wynaad taluk, Malabar district; and

(*b*) if so, the number of families affected thereby?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) & (*b*) In September 1954 the Government ordered that the encroachments in Wynaad taluk should be dealt with under the existing rules. Accordingly the Tahsildar, Wynaad, booked 261 cases of encroachments which could not be regularized under the rules and issued No. 7 notices under the Land Encroachment Act in fasli 1364 as a result of which, 13 encroachers have since vacated the lands. No eviction of the encroachments by any coercive process had so far been effected. Government have ordered stay of all eviction proceedings pending a final decision on the policy to be followed in respect of these encroachments.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, may I know since what time the encroachment began and at what time did the Government notice that there was encroachment and begin to institute eviction proceedings?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Sir, some encroachments date back to years prior to 1948 and some have taken place after the year 1948. There are about 7,000 cases of unauthorized occupations outside the colony area and 4,300 and odd cases in the colony area.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know why did the Government not take action at the proper time? By instituting the proceedings now, they have created all these complications?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Sir, some of the encroachments outside the colonization area have been very subtle and naturally it took some time to find them out.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Sir, taking stock of the realities, now that there have been about 7,000 encroachments in areas adjoining the colonization area, will Government include all these encroached areas in the colonization scheme and subsidise their development?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Sir, the Government are examining the question of how best to tackle these encroachments.

Taking over of certain roads in Malabar and South Kanara

* 2756 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer to Question No. 815 given on 15th May 1954, whether it is a fact that the Government have directed the Highways Department to take over the Payyanur-Padiotchal road in North Malabar?

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The answer is in the negative. The question of taking over Vellur-Padiotchal-Pulingone road from the control of Malabar District Board is however proposed to be examined in connexion with the State Budget for 1956–57.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, are the Government aware that this road, which is the only road leading to the pepper centres in the Payyanur firka, is one of the worst roads in Malabar and will the Government be pleased at least to recommend to the Highways Department the taking over of this road and making it useful for bus traffic as well as for the travellers?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, there is a scheme for taking over all the District Board roads by the Highways Department and in that scheme the question of taking up this road will be examined. It may be either this year or next year.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : Sir, as the finances of the district boards in the State are in a very bad condition, may I know whether there is any proposal to take over all the major district board roads by the Highways Department?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes, Sir. The policy of the Government is to take over all the major district board roads. We have already taken over 8,996 miles of Group I roads in this State and the balance left over is 2,890 miles. We propose to take over them in the Second Five-Year Plan.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Is there any proposal engaging the attention of the Government to so shape the Tour Programme of Prime Minister Pandit Nehru in Malabar as to avoid all district board roads so that their shameful condition may not be known to him or seen by him? (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, that is outside the scope of the question. Anyhow I can say that some patch works will naturally be done and the Prime Minister won't be able to notice the ugliness of anything the Member alleges.

* 2757 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to take over the Kotfecherry-Panathur road in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara, from the district board to be maintained by the Highways Department ; and

(*b*) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.